

South Dakota Family Focus

Family Assistance 800-658-3930

<https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/sites/famsup/default.aspx>

An update for South Dakota National Guard Service Members and Families

Happy New Year from the Youth Program

We hope that 2012 is off to a great start for you and your family!

Check out the new edition of our **youth program newsletter** - go on to the Family Programs website at sdguard.ngb.army.mil and click on "Youth Program" on the left-hand side, and then on the "Youth Newsletters" folder for our December issue.

NACCRRRA News - The National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies is the nation's leading voice for child care and offers child care assistance programs for qualifying military families. Please see the attached for updated information regarding this program.



Join us for a wonderful training through the **Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)** on 22-23 February in Spearfish and 13-14 March in Mitchell. This free professional development training is for families, professionals, educators, counselors, and those working with National Guard and Reserve youth. It is entitled "Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Institute" and is an excellent opportunity to network with your counterparts in the state and to learn more about supporting our military children. The training also offers participants the option of earning graduate credit or continuing education credit (CEU's) for a fee. Please see the attached "Save the Date" forms for further information and forward this on to anyone you think would benefit from the trainings!

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Family Assistance Updates

METLIFE Dental received the TRICARE Dental Program Contract. Expect to see details regarding the transition to METLIFE in March. If you're already enrolled into United Concordia the transitions are to be seamless. Both United Concordia and METLIFE have been working together to help ensure the standard of service remains high and beneficiaries have a smooth transition. If you are interested in more information please contact our Family Assistance Team!

Have you added a baby, changed your residence, or experienced a change in your marital status? If so have you DOUBLE CHECKED to ensure the changes have been updated in DEERS! Make it a habit to double check! You can view DEERS from your AKO account log on and ensure your information is

correct. Work with your unit to make necessary changes.

If you are enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select please be reminded that if you choose to add a dependent to your TRS coverage there is a 2 step process (1. DEERS update 2. New enrollment form).

It is with great honor to assist and support you! How may we be of Assistance?

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Free Tax Filing Service

Military OneSource is once again offering a free, electronic tax filing service. If you are eligible under the Military OneSource program, you can complete, save, and file your 2011 federal and up to three state returns online free with H&R block At Home® Tool. For more information log on to [Military OneSource](http://MilitaryOneSource) or call 800-342-9647

Vets4Warriors

The Vets4Warriors is a new program available to all Service Members. This team of veteran peers has immediate access to behavioral health clinicians to respond to potentially emergent issues and can offer referrals to local community services, military veteran centers, and military healthcare providers based on the needs of the Service Member. A variety of services will be provided to include non-clinical (legal, financial) and referrals for clinical services (substance abuse, behavioral health).

Toll-Free: 1-855-VET-TALK

Web: www.vets4warriors.com

Email: contatus@vets4warriors.com

Upcoming Events

18 February 2012 - Red Cross "Coping With Deployment"

Camp Rapid Building 450
9:00 to 11:30-Adult Module
11:30 to 1:30-Youth Module

25-26 February 2012 - Family Readiness Training Academy - East River
Volunteer Orientation, Basic & Advanced Training, Funds & Fundraising, Unit Rep Training
Sioux Falls Regional Training Center (RTI - attached to armory)

10-11 March 2012 - Family Readiness Training Academy - West River
Volunteer Orientation, Basic & Advanced Training, Funds & Fundraising, Unit Rep Training
Camp Rapid

Our Newest Members to Family Programs

Deputy Director

Hello everyone, this is MAJ Brendan Murphy, the newly appointed Deputy Director for the SFSS. I wanted to share with you a bit on who I am for those of you I do not know well. I am very excited to embark upon this great new opportunity! My military career extends back nearly 15 years, when I commissioned as an intelligence officer in the Air Force. I was stationed at Ellsworth AFB in 1998 and have remained here in Rapid City ever since. I joined the SDNG in 2004, where I helped stand up the first full-time Civil Support Team in the state. After leading the survey team for 3 years, I was hired as the Mobilization Specialist. My stay there was rather brief, when I was hired on as special staff for the TAG, as the State Public Affairs Officer. During this same timeframe, I also served as the Detachment Commander



for JFHQ. I feel as though I have been very fortunate serving in uniform and been blessed with many amazing experiences, but life is full of opportunities, and so I sought the chance to serve the SDNG in a different capacity. That brings me to today, where I was fortunate enough to be chosen as the SFSS Deputy Director. I hope my skill sets will serve me well in this new endeavor and look forward to my new role in this great organization. Additionally, I have been married for nearly 11 years now to my beautiful wife Jonette, who retired from the SDNG after 20 years in the medical

field. Recently, we were blessed with our first son, Mason, on January 7th, so things have been quite hectic, but amazing as well. I love the outdoors and staying active through running, biking and swimming to name a few of my favorite things to do outside of work. I have always considered myself a family man and believe my dedication, enthusiasm and genuine care for others will help me in my new role in the SFSS. I wish you the best to you and yours in 2012! Respectfully, MAJ Murphy~

Brendan Murphy

Deputy Director, Soldier and Family Support Services

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Transition Assistance Advisor

I am Dr. Bill Meirose and I consider it a great honor to be the new Transition Assistance Advisor for the state of South Dakota. I have been married to my wonderful wife, Valerie, for 33 years. We have three children and three Grandsons with the fourth due very soon. I was born and raised in Sturgis, SD and currently make my home there. I have been with the South Dakota Army National Guard for 15 years and served three years on active duty with the U.S. Army. In the course of my professional career, I have worked for 10 years with the Veteran's Administration Medical Center at Ft. Meade, SD and I served as an Associate Pastor for over 20 years. I have an earned doctorate in Adult and Higher Education from the University of South Dakota. I am looking forward to working with the Veterans and Soldiers of this great state. I can be contacted at (605)737-6669 or my email is william.meirose@us.army.mil.



Family Program Assistant

My Name is MSgt Brian Johnson and I am 31 years old. I have been in the Air National Guard for 14 years with the Sustainment Services Flight. Throughout the past few years I have had the opportunity to work with Civil Engineering, Base Services and currently with the Family Readiness on a full-time basis. I have been blessed to get the chance to work with such great people and can honestly say I love my job.

Most importantly, I am married to SSgt Elizabeth Johnson who works in the clinic and I actually met while working at the guard base. We have a daughter named Addison, who will be turning one next month. She keeps us very busy and I wouldn't change it for the world. That's me in a nutshell! I can be contacted at 605-988-5716 or by email brian.johnson.6@ang.af.mil.

